

REMARKS

These amendments and remarks are being filed in response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2004. For the following reasons this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue.

No new matter is introduced by these amendments. The amendment to the specification corrects informalities. Support for the amendment to claim 6 is supported by originally filed claim 7. Claims 8 and 9 are amended to maintain proper dependency.

Claims 6 and 8-10 are pending in this application. Claims 6 and 10 are rejected. Claims 7-9 are objected to. Claims 1-5 have been previously canceled. Claim 7 has been canceled in this response. Claims 6, 8, and 9 have been amended in this response.

Specification

The title of the invention is objected to as not descriptive. In response to this objection the title has been amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if placed in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 6.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuhashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,759,703). This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 6 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Therefore, independent claim 6 and dependent claim 10 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case should be passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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